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WHITEHALL.

The following being the laſt Act of Parliament for the better preventing Thefts and Robberies, and for regulating Places of Publick Entertainment, and puniſhing Perſons keeping diſorderly Houſes, is here inſerted for the Information of the Publick.

An Act for the better preventing Thefts and Robberies, and for regulating Places of publick Entertainment, and puniſhing Perſons keeping diſorderly Houſes.

WHEREAS the advertiſing a Reward with no Queſtions aſked, for the Return of Things which have been loſt or ſtolen, is one great Cauſe and Encouragement of Thefts and Robberies; be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That from and after the Firſt Day of June, One thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty two, any Perſon publickly advertiſing a Reward with no Queſtions aſked, for the Return of Things which have been ſtolen or loſt, or making uſe of any Words in ſuch publick Advertiſement, purporting, that ſuch Reward ſhall be given or paid, without ſeizing or making Enquiry after the Perſon producing ſuch Thing ſo ſtolen or loſt, or promiſing or offering, in any ſuch publick Advertiſement, to return to any Pawnbroker, or other Perſon, who may have bought or advanced Money by way of Loan, upon ſuch Thing ſo ſtolen or loſt, the Money ſo paid or advanced, or any other Sum of Money or Reward for the Return of ſuch Thing; and any Perſon printing or publiſhing ſuch Adviſement, ſhall reſpectively forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds for every ſuch Offence, to any Perſon who will ſue for the ſame.

And whereas the Multitude of Places of Entertainment for the lower Sort of People, is another great Cauſe of Thefts and Robberies, as they are thereby tempted to ſpend their ſmall Subſtance in riotous Pleaſures, and in Conſequence are put on unlawful Methods of ſupplying their Wants, and renewing their Pleaſures: In order therefore to prevent the ſaid Temptation to Thefts and Robberies, and to correct as far as may be the Habit of Idleneſs, which is become too general over the whole Kingdom, and is productive of much Miſchief and Inconvenience; be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That from and after the Firſt Day of December, One thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty two, any Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, kept for publick Dancing, Muſick, or other publick Entertainment of the like Kind, in the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, or within Twenty Miles thereof, without a Licence had for that Purpoſe, from the laſt preceding Michaelmas Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, to be holden for the County, City, Riding, Liberty, or Diviſion, in which ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, is ſituate, (who are hereby authorized and impowered to grant ſuch Licences, as they in their Diſcretion ſhall think proper) ſignified under the Hands and Seals of Four or more of the Juſtices there aſſembled, ſhall be deemed a diſorderly Houſe or Place: And every ſuch Licence ſhall be ſigned and ſealed by the ſaid Juſtices in open Court, and afterwards be publickly read by the Clerk of the Peace, together with the Names of the Juſtices ſubſcribing the ſame; and no ſuch Licence ſhall be granted at any adjourned Seſſions; nor ſhall any Fee or Reward be taken for any ſuch Licence: And it ſhall and may be lawful to and for any Conſtable, or other Perſon being thereunto authorized, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of one or more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace of the County, City, Riding, Diviſion, or Liberty, where ſuch Houſe or Place ſhall be ſituate, to enter ſuch Houſe or Place, and to ſeize every Perſon who ſhall be found therein, in order that they may be dealt with according to Law: And every Perſon keeping ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, without ſuch Licence as aforeſaid, ſhall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds to ſuch Perſon as will ſue for the ſame; and be otherwiſe puniſhable as the Law directs in Caſes of diſorderly Houſes.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That in order to give publick Notice what Places are licenſed purſuant to this Act, there ſhall be affixed and kept up in ſome notorious Place over the Door or Entrance of every ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, kept for any of the ſaid Purpoſes, and ſo licenſed as aforeſaid, an Inſcription in large Capital Letters, in the Words following; videlicet, LICENSED PURSUANT TO ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF THE TWENTY FIFTH OF KING GEORGE THE SECOND; and that no ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, kept for any of the ſaid Purpoſes, although licenſed as aforeſaid, ſhall be open for any of the ſaid Purpoſes, before the Hour of Five in the Afternoon; and that the affixing and keeping up of ſuch Inſcription as aforeſaid, and the ſaid Limitation or Reſtriction in Point of Time, ſhall be inſerted in, and made Conditions of, every ſuch Licence; and in Caſe of any Breach of either of the ſaid Conditions, ſuch Licence ſhall be forfeited, and ſhall be revoked by the Juſtices of the Peace in their next General or Quarter Seſſions, and

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and ſhall not be renewed; nor ſhall any new Licence be granted to the ſame Perſon or Perſons, or any other Perſon on his or their or any of their Behalf, or for their Uſe or Benefit, directly or indirectly, for keeping any ſuch Houſe, Room, Garden, or other Place, for any of the Purpoſes aforeſaid.

Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to the Theatres Royal in *Drury-Lane* and *Covent Garden*, or the Theatre commonly called *The King's Theatre* in the *Hay Market*, or any of them; nor to ſuch Performances and publick Entertainments, as are or ſhall be lawfully exerciſed and carried on under or by virtue of Letters Patents, or Licence of the Crown, or the Licence of the Lord Chamberlain of His Majeſty's Houſhold; any Thing herein contained notwithſtanding.

And in order to encourage Proſecutions againſt Perſons keeping Bawdy-houſes, Gaming-houſes, or other diſorderly Houſes, be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any two Inhabitants of any Pariſh or Place, paying Scot and bearing Lot therein, do give Notice in Writing to any Conſtable (or other Peace Officer of the like Nature, where there is no Conſtable) of ſuch Pariſh or Place, of any Perſon keeping a Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or any other diſorderly Houſe, in ſuch Pariſh, or Place, the Conſtable, or ſuch Officer as aforeſaid, ſo receiving ſuch Notice, ſhall forthwith go with ſuch Inhabitants to one of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace of the County, City, Riding, Diviſion, or Liberty, in which ſuch Pariſh or Place does lie; and ſhall, upon ſuch Inhabitants making Oath before ſuch Juſtice, that they do believe the Contents of ſuch Notice to be true, and entering into a Recognizance in the penal Sum of Twenty Pounds each, to give or produce material Evidence againſt ſuch Perſon for ſuch Offence; enter into a Recognizance in the penal Sum of Thirty Pounds, to proſecute with Effect ſuch Perſon for ſuch Offence at the next General or Quarter Seſſion of the Peace, or at the next Aſſizes to be holden for the County in which ſuch Pariſh or Place does lie, as to the ſaid Juſtice ſhall ſeem meet; and ſuch Conſtable, or other Officer, ſhall be allowed all the reaſonable Expences of ſuch Proſecution, to be aſcertained by any Two Juſtices of the Peace of the County, City, Riding, Diviſion, or Liberty, where the Offence ſhall have been committed, and ſhall be paid the ſame by the Overſeers of the Poor of ſuch Pariſh or Place; and in Caſe ſuch Perſon ſhall be convicted of ſuch Offence, the Overſeers of the Poor of ſuch Pariſh or Place ſhall forthwith pay the Sum of Ten Pounds to each of ſuch Inhabitants; and in Caſe ſuch Overſeers ſhall neglect or refuſe to pay to ſuch Conſtable, or other Officer, ſuch Expences of the Proſecution as aforeſaid, or ſhall neglect or refuſe to pay upon Demand, the ſaid Sums of Ten Pounds and Ten Pounds, ſuch Overſeers, and each of them, ſhall forfeit to the Perſon intitled to the ſame, Double the Sum ſo refuſed or neglected to be paid.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That upon ſuch Conſtable, or other Officer, entering into ſuch Recognizance to proſecute as aforeſaid, the ſaid Juſtice of the Peace ſhall forthwith make out his Warrant to bring the Perſon ſo accuſed of keeping a Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or other diſorderly Houſe, before him, and ſhall bind him or her over to appear at ſuch General or Quarter Seſſion or Aſſizes, there to anſwer to ſuch Bill of Indictment as ſhall be found againſt him or her for ſuch Offence; and ſuch Juſtice ſhall and may, if in his Diſcretion he thinks fit, likewiſe demand and take Security for ſuch Perſons good Behaviour in the mean Time, and until ſuch Indictment ſhall be found, heard, and determined, or be returned by the Grand Jury not to be a true Bill.

Provided alſo, That in Caſe ſuch Conſtable ſhall neglect or refuſe, upon ſuch Notice, to go before any Juſtice of the Peace, or to enter into ſuch Recognizance, or ſhall be wilfully negligent in carrying on the ſaid Proſecution, he ſhall for every ſuch Offence forfeit the Sum of Twenty Pounds to each of ſuch Inhabitants ſo giving Notice as aforeſaid.

And whereas, by reaſon of the many ſubtle and crafty Contrivances of Perſons keeping Bawdy-houſes, Gaming-houſes, or other diſorderly Houſes, it is difficult to prove who is the real Owner or Keeper thereof, by which Means many notorious Offenders have eſcaped Puniſhment; be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That any Perſon who ſhall at any Time hereafter appear, act, or behave him or herſelf, as Maſter or Miſtreſs, or as the Perſon having the Care, Government, or Management of any Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or other diſorderly Houſe, ſhall be deemed and taken to be the Keeper thereof, and ſhall be liable to be proſecuted and puniſhed as ſuch, notwithſtanding he or ſhe ſhall not in Fact be the real Owner or Keeper thereof.

Provided nevertheleſs, That upon any ſuch Proſecution againſt any Perſon for keeping a Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or other diſorderly Houſe, any Perſon may give Evidence againſt the Defendant, or on Behalf of the Defendant, in ſuch Proſecution, notwithſtanding his or her being an Inhabitant or Pariſhioner of the ſaid Pariſh or Place, or having entered into ſuch Recognizance as aforeſaid.

And be it farther enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That no Indictment which ſhall at any Time after the ſaid Firſt Day of June, be preferred againſt any Perſon for keeping a Bawdy-houſe, Gaming-houſe, or other diſorderly Houſe, ſhall be removed by any Writ of Certiorari into any other Court; but ſuch Indictment ſhall be heard, tried, and finally determined, at the ſame General or Quarter Seſſion or Aſſizes, where ſuch Indictment ſhall have been preferred (unleſs the Court ſhall think proper, upon Cauſe ſhewn, to adjourn the ſame) any ſuch Writ or Allowance thereof notwithſtanding.

And whereas many Perſons are deterred from proſecuting Perſons guilty of Felony, upon account of the Expence attending ſuch Proſecutions, which is another great Cauſe and Encouragement of Thefts and Robberies; in order therefore to encourage the bringing Offenders to Juſtice, be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be in the Power of the Court, before whom any Perſon has been tried and convicted of any Grand or Petit Larceny, or other Felony, at the Prayer of the Proſecutor, and on Conſideration of his Circumſtances, to order the Treaſurer of the County in which the Offence ſhall have been committed, to pay unto ſuch Proſecutor ſuch Sum of Money as to the ſaid Court ſhall ſeem reaſonable, not exceeding the Expences which it ſhall appear to the Court the Proſecutor was put unto in carrying on ſuch Proſecution, making him a reaſonable Allowance for his Time and Trouble therein; which Order the Clerk of Aſſize, or Clerk of the Peace reſpectively, is hereby directed and required forthwith to make out and to deliver unto ſuch Proſecutor, upon being paid for the ſame the Sum of One Shilling, and no more; and the Treaſurer of the County is hereby authorized and required, upon Sight of ſuch Order, forthwith to pay to ſuch Proſecutor, or other Perſon authorized to receive the ſame, ſuch Sum of Money as aforeſaid, and ſhall be allowed the ſame in his Accounts.

And, for the better diſcovering and bringing to Juſtice, Thieves, Robbers, and other Perſons maintaining themſelves by pilfering and defrauding Mankind; be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for any Two or more

more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, in any County, City, or Liberty, in Caſe any Perſon apprehended, upon any general Privy Search, or by virtue of any ſpecial Warrant, ſhall be charged before them with being a Rogue and Vagabond, or an idle and diſorderly Perſon, or with Suſpicion of Felony, (although no direct Proof be then made thereof) to examine ſuch Perſon upon Oath, not only as to the Pariſh or Place where he was laſt legally ſettled, but alſo as to his Means of Livelihood; the Subſtance of which Examination ſhall be put into Writing, and be ſubſcribed or ſigned by the Perſon ſo examined; and the ſaid Juſtices ſhall likewiſe ſign the ſame, and tranſmit it to the next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace to be holden for the ſame County, City, or Liberty, there to be filed, and to be kept on Record: And if ſuch Perſon ſhall not make it appear to ſuch Juſtices, that he has a lawful Way of getting his Livelihood, or ſhall not procure ſome reſponſible Houſe-keeper to appear to his Character, and to give Security for his Appearance before ſuch Juſtices, at ſome other Day to be fixed for that Purpoſe (in caſe the ſame ſhall be required) to commit ſuch Perſon to ſome Priſon, or Houſe of Correction, for any Time not exceeding ſix Days; and in the mean Time to order the Overſeers of the Poor, or one of them, of the Pariſh or Place in which ſuch Perſon ſhall be apprehended, to inſert an Advertiſement in ſome publick Paper, deſcribing ſuch ſuſpicious Perſon, and any Thing or Things which ſhall have been found upon him, or in his Cuſtody, and which he ſhall be ſuſpected not to have come honeſtly by, and mentioning the Place to which ſuch Perſon is committed, and ſpecifying the Time and Place when and where ſuch Perſon is to be again brought before them to be re-examined; and if no Accuſation ſhall be then laid againſt him, then ſuch Perſon ſhall be diſcharged, or otherwiſe dealt with according to Law.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That any Perſon intitled to any of the Forfeitures by this Act impoſed, may ſue for the ſame by Action of Debt, in any of his Majeſty's Courts of Record at Weſtminſter, in which it ſhall be ſufficient to declare, That the Defendant is indebted to the Plaintiff in the Sum of being forfeited by an Act, intituled, *An Act for the better preventing Thefts and Robberies, and for regulating Places of publick Entertainment, and puniſhing Perſons keeping diſorderly Houſes*; and the Plaintiff, if he recover in any ſuch Action, ſhall have his full Coſts.

Provided, That no Action ſhall be brought by virtue of this Act, unleſs the ſame ſhall be commenced within the Space of ſix Calendar Months, after the Offence committed.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That this Act ſhall continue in Force until the Expiration of three Years, to be computed from the firſt Day of this Seſſion of Parliament; and from thence to the End of the then next Seſſion of Parliament, and no longer.

Petersbourg, March 25. 'Tis ſaid her Imperial Majeſty is determined to make no Reduction this Year either of her Land or Sea Forces.

Milan, March 30. Notwithſtanding the Pains taken by Count Pallavicini, Governor General of this Dutchy, to extirpate the great Number of Vagrants and Thieves who have for ſome Time paſt infeſted this Country, there have lately been ſeveral Robberies committed; large Bodies of them having entred ſeveral Inns upon the Road by Force in the Day Time, and not only carried off every Thing they could that was valuable, but even aſſaſſinated ſome Perſons who endeavoured to oppoſe them.

Genoa, April 1. On Monday laſt the Marqueſs de Lomelline was unanimouſly elected Doge of this Republick, and was the ſame Day conducted with the accuſtomed Ceremonies to the Ducal Palace, where he was ſoon after complimented thereupon by the Nobility and Foreign Miniſters.

Stockholm, April 4. The King has cauſed an Ordonnance to be publiſhed, by which his Majeſty permits Timber, Planks and Lime, which were prohibited during the rebuilding of the Houſes burnt down by the late great Fires, to be again exported.

Chamberry, April 4. The Regency of this Dutchy have publiſhed an Ordonnance, by expreſs Orders from the King, commanding all the French and Swiſs Proteſtants, who are ſettled in the Territories of St. Victor and Chapitre, to depart with their Effects within three Months, which has thrown them all into the greateſt Conſternation.

Venice, April 6. The Ceremony of the Inſtallation of the Chevalier Loredano, lately elected Doge of this Republick, will be performed To-morrow with the greateſt Magnificence, when the Rejoycings on that Occaſion will begin, and are to continue for three Days, during which the fine Firework, that has been for ſome Time preparing, will be played off.

Ratisbon, April 6. We learn from Munich, that the Elector of Bavaria has lately publiſhed an Edict, forbidding his Subjects to hold any Correſpondence with ſuch of the Inhabitants of Upper Auſtria as have embraced the Proteſtant Religion.

Copenhagen, April 10. The King has appointed the Count de Lynar, late Miniſter Plenipotentiary from this Court to that of Ruſſia, to be Governor General of the Counties of Oldenbourg and Delmenhorſt. Major General Vieregg is appointed Commandant of the Fortreſs of Gluckſtadt; and the Count d'Achſberg is appointed Colonel of the Prince Royal's Regiment of Foot.

Berlin, April 11. The King propoſes to make a general Review of the Troops in this Neighbourhood towards the Beginning of next Month. A few Days ago the Queen-Mother was ſlightly indiſpoſed, but ſhe is now perfectly recovered, and has received the Compliments of the whole Court thereupon. We learn from Militſch, a ſmall Town in Upper Sileſia, that a Fire broke out there the 27th of laſt Month, which burnt down upwards of 40 Houſes.

Navy Office, April 2, 1752.

As the paſſing the Accounts of Sir John Ruſhout and George Dodington, Eſq; late Treaſurers of his Majeſty's Navy, are carrying on with all the Expedition that may be, it is recommended to ſuch Perſons as have had Bills aſſigned upon them by the Navy Board, and have not receiv'd their Money for the ſaid Bills, forthwith to call for the ſame; and all Perſons who have any Impreſts ſtanding out againſt them, and have not any Bills or Accounts in this Office to clear the ſaid Impreſts, are deſired forthwith to bring in their Bills or Accounts to diſcharge them, that ſo the ſaid Impreſts may not be brought